

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 SP-02
USIA-06 NSC-05 EPG-02 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EAID, IN
SUBJ: BILATERAL AID TO INDIA

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF A TALKING POINTS PAPER ON BILATERAL AID TO INDIA WHICH THE AMBASSADOR USED IN HIS CONVERSATION JUNE 15 WITH MINISTRY OF FINANCE SECRETARY MONMOHAN SINGH (REPORTED SEPEL) AND WHICH HE LEFT WITH THE SECRETARY FOLLOWING THE CONVERSATION.
2. QUOTE. AS I HAVE SAID IN OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATION, THE USG IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS A BILATERAL AID PROGRAM WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
3. IF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DESIRES TO PURSUE SUCH TALKS, WE SHALL NEED TO INITIATE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS REGARDING PROGRAM CONTENT AND OUR AID RELATIONSHIP FOR REASONS THAT I SHALL EXPLAIN.
4. WHILE WE WOULD LIKE TO PACE OUR FORMAL DECISIONS REGARDING A FY1978 PROGRAM TO AVOID CREATING PROBLEMS FOR THE IDA V REPLENISHMENT (CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WILL CONTINUE THROUGH AUGUST), INFORMAL DECISIONS ON THE TYPE OF PROGRAM AND AID RELATIONSHIPS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOON AS POSSIBLE. OUR ADMINISTRATION HAS IN MIND A LEVEL OF FUNDING FOR US FY1978 OF ABOUT \$60 MILLION, AS A FIRST STEP TO WHAT I BELIEVE CAN BE LARGER COMMITMENTS IN THE FUTURE.

5. FURTHERMORE, WE NEED TO FIT CONSIDERATION OF A FY1979 PROGRAM INTO OUR NORMAL BUDGET CYCLE IF POSSIBLE. IDEALLY

THAT WOULD ENTAIL INFORMAL DECISIONS ON GENERAL PROGRAM PROPOSALS AS EARLY AS AUGUST 1 OF THIS YEAR. ALTHOUGH PRECISE FY1979 LEVELS WILL DEPEND UPON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY THEM, MY PERSONAL HOPE IS TO BE ABLE TO RECOMMEND TO WASHINGTON A COMMITMENT OF NOT LESS THAN \$100 MILLION FOR THAT YEAR.

6. THE ADMINISTRATION, AND INDEED THE INTENT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE CONGRESS, ENVISIONS FOCUSING THE FY1978 PROGRAM IN THE GENERAL AREA OF AGRICULTURE. IT IS FORTUNATE THAT WE ENTIRELY AGREE THAT DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES SHOULD BE PUT ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE IN GENERAL.

6. WE WOULD HOPE THAT SINCE TIME FOR DISCUSSING AN FY1978 PROGRAM IS LIMITED, THE NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIRST PROGRAM WOULD BE FEW. THEY COULD INCLUDE COLLABORATION WITH SOME WORLD BANK PROGRAM IF THAT IS PREFERRED BY INDIA.

8. THEREAFTER, A FY1979 PROGRAM COULD BE SKETCHED IN BROAD TERMS, WHICH COULD INCLUDE AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, NUTRITION, ETC., WITH DETAILED DISCUSSIONS EXTENDING INTO THE EARLY PART OF FY1978.

9. ALL OF THE ABOVE DEPENDS, OF COURSE, UPON WHETHER OR NOT THE GOI IS READY TO BEGIN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF A BILATERAL AID PROGRAM, TO COMMENCE IN OUR FY1978. UNQUOTE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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